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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HUD-02 EB-08 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12
EUR-12 NEA-11 AID-05 DOE-15 SOE-02 OES-07 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /127 W
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R 301745Z JUN 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1550
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 09971

DEPT PASS HUD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOCI ECE
SUBJECT: TENTH SESSION OF THE UN/ECE WORKING PARTY ON
THE BUILDING INDUSTRY, JUNE 26-30, 1978, GENEVA

1. TENTH SESSION OF THE UN/ECE WORKING PARTY ON THE BUILDING INDUSTRY WAS ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF 22 NATIONS AND 11 INDEPENDENT (NONGOVERNMENT) INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

2. MR. B. AAKRE (NORWAY), CHIEF OF DIVISION, MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND LABOR WAS ELECTED AS CHAIRMAN AND MR. R. FREIGANG (GERMANY DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC), DIRECTOR, ZBIN, MINISTERIUM FUR BAUWESEN, WAS ELECTED VICE CHAIRMAN.

3. DELEGATES EXPRESSED THE RECURRING THEME THAT MANY PROBLEMS IN BUILDING, INCLUDING STANDARDS, REGULATORY PHILOSOPHIES AND RESEARCH, ARE COMMON TO MANY COUNTRIES. CONSEQUENTLY, INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION IN THIS FIELD BECOMES INCREASINGLY ESSENTIAL, AND SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED BY GOVERNMENTS AS AN INTEGRAL AND IMPORTANT PART OF
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THEIR POLICIES.

4. IT IS APPARENT THAT STRONG INTERNATIONAL TRENDS TOWARD BROAD RECOGNITION OF CONSUMER/USER NEEDS IN ALL AREAS OF HOUSING AND BUILDING, COUPLED WITH INCREASING USE OF PERFORMANCE STANDARDS, UNDERLINES THE IMPORTANCE OF THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN

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MANY ASPECTS OF THIS UN/ECE PROGRAM, AND THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS WRITING ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION (ISO). ADEQUATE TECHNICAL SUPPORT AND INVOLVEMENT WILL HELP ANTICIPATE CHANGES THAT ARE OCCURRING WORLDWIDE AND WILL ENCOURAGE AND FACILITATE THE CORPORATION OF SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS INTO U.S. TECHNICAL PROGRAMS.

5. WORKING PARTY ON THE BUILDING INDUSTRY IS IN A DILEMMA WHEREBY THE COST OF THE PROPOSED WORK PROJECTS EXCEEDS THE BUDGET. CONSEQUENTLY, A GREAT DEAL OF DISCUSSION WAS DEVOTED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PRIORITIES AND TO INCREASED CASH AND IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS BY MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS.

6. U.S. DELEGATION MADE COMMITMENT TO SHARE INFORMATION IN THE AREAS OF HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY AND PHYSICALLY DISABLED; PERFORMANCE-BASED ENERGY CONSERVATION STANDARDS FOR BUILDINGS; AND IN SOLAR HEATING AND COOLING.

7. ALL OF THE OTHER DELEGATIONS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN OBTAINING MORE INFORMATION ON AND STAYING ABREAST OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BUILDING SCIENCES (NIBS). MANY OF THE OBJECTIVES AND GOALS OF NIBS IN THE UNITED STATES ARE SIMILAR TO THOSE OF THE WORKING PARTY INTERNATIONALLY. THE OTHER DELEGATES
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EXPRESSED GREAT INTEREST IN NIBS' ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE.

8. HUD SHOULD SERIOUSLY CONSIDER INCREASING ITS SUPPORT TO THE WORKING PARTY. NUMEROUS REFERENCES WERE MADE TO THE U.S.'S FAILURE TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS FOR COMMENT. THIS ACTIVITY SHOULD AT LEAST BE ELEVATED TO A LEVEL AT HUD SUCH THAT PERSONS WORKING ON OR INTERESTED IN WORKING PARTY RELATED MATTERS ARE PROVIDED THE TIME AND SUPPORT TO RESPOND TO "REASONABLE" REQUESTS FOR COMMENTS AND PAPERS. FOR ACTIVITIES THAT ARE DIRECTLY RELATED TO HOUSING RESEARCH, INCLUDING REGULATORY AND RELATED STANDARD ACTIVITIES, HUD MAY WISH TO CONSIDER A MODEST FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION ($20,000 - $30,000) TO THE MOST APPROPRIATE UN/ECE WORKING PARTY ON THE BUILDING INDUSTRY TRUST FUND. GIVEN THE INCREASED EMPHASIS IN THE WORKING PARTY ON THE BUILDING INDUSTRY ON PERFORMANCE-BASED ENERGY CONSERVATION STANDARDS FOR BUILDINGS, THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY MAY ALSO WISH TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE TRUST FUND.

9. THERE ARE THREE REASONS FOR AN INCREASED UNITED STATES

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SUPPORT OF THIS ACTIVITY:
A. IT PROVIDES AN EFFECTIVE MEANS FOR THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON COMMON BUILDING AND BUILDING RESEARCH PROBLEMS;

B. HARMONIZATION OF REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS. IF WE CLOSELY FOLLOW UN/ECE EFFORTS WE MAY BE able TO APPLY SOME OF THEIR MORE SUCCESSFUL ACTIVITIES TO OUR ENDEAVORS AMONG THE FIFTY STATES.

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9. ISO STANDARDS ARE BEING ADOPTED BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND HAVE A STRONG INFLUENCE ON STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS IN THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. IF WE ARE TO EXPORT BUILDING TECHNOLOGY COMPONENTS, AND MATERIALS TO THEM, WE MUST USE THOSE STANDARDS. THE MORE WE ARE INVOLVED WITH THIS UN/ECE-ISO PROJECT DURING THE DEVELOPMENT PHASE THE EASIER WILL BE OUR UNDERSTANDING OF AND ADAPTATION TO THE EVENTUAL RECOMMENDATIONS.
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 30 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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